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Title : Need to provide voting right to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs).

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to some important issues of NRIs, the Non-Resident Indians. It is true that about 1.5 million Keralites are working in the Gulf Countries. So, there are about 25 lakh Keralites who are working abroad including other countries. It is true that there are good numbers of people from other States also who are working in foreign countries. It is evident that it is not for mental pleasure or mental satisfaction that they are going abroad. Really the question is relating to lack of employment opportunities in our country.

Sir, when they are working abroad, they are investing in our country, and they are sending money to their families. They are really enriching our national economy and our nation. Though they are working abroad, they are not the citizens of those nations. At the same time, they have no voting power in our country also. While we are getting all the benefits from these NRIs, it is our duty to give voting power to those NRIs. So, I would request the Government to take necessary steps because the election is coming within two or three months. We are going to face the elections. In this election itself, these NRIs can cast their voting rights. The Government has to take up this issue.